AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In a system for coupling a masonry veneer to a structure, an anchor mounted on the structure, comprising:

a channel body having a channel bottom connected to two walls, a first wall of the two walls being projected substantially perpendicular to the channel bottom, and a second wall of the two walls being in parallel to the first wall, the second wall having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being projected substantially perpendicular to the channel bottom and the distal end being projected toward the channel bottom at an acute angle of less than 90 degrees to define a negative slope, wherein the second wall is projected substantially perpendicular to the channel bottom at a height greater than the first wall.

2. (Currently amended) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the distal end of the second wall is projected toward the channel bottom at an acute angle~~, the acute angle being selected from a group consisting of~~ from about 30 degrees to about 60 degrees~~; from about 40 degrees to about 50 degrees; and an acute angle of about 45 degrees~~.

3. (Original) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the channel body includes a plurality of fastener holes along its length.

4. (Original) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the channel body is at least 1 inch in length.

5. (Original) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the channel body comprises a non-corrosive material, the non-corrosive material being selected from a group consisting of stainless steel and hot-dip galvanized steel.

6. (Original) The anchor according to Claim 5, wherein the hot-dip galvanized steel is in a gauge from about 11 to about 20.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

7. (Currently amended) The anchor according to Claim 1, further comprising a coating of adhesive moistureproof material on the outer surface of the channel.

8. (Currently amended) The anchor according to Claim 7, further comprising a peelable backing covering the adhesive moistureproof material.

9. (Currently amended) In a system for coupling a masonry veneer to a structure, a key that interfaces the masonry veneer and interlocks with an anchor mounted on the structure, comprising:

a substantially flat body with two ends, a first end of the substantially flat body having a slit to interlock with the anchor, and a second end of the substantially flat body having one or more openings for mortar capture, wherein the slit is slanted towards the anchor at an acute angle less than 90 degrees.

10. (Currently amended) The key according to Claim 9, wherein the slit is slanted towards the anchor at an acute angle~~, the acute angle being selected from a group consisting of an angle~~ between 30 to 60 degrees ~~and an angle of about 45 degrees~~.

11. (Original) The key according to Claim 9, wherein the first end comprises a first side and a second side, wherein the first side comprises a slit to interlock with the anchor and the second side further comprises a side cut.

12. (Original) The key according to Claim 9, wherein the second end comprising one or more openings for mortar capture, the openings being selected from a group consisting of openings suitable for embedding seismic reinforcement wire and stamped tabs.

13. (Original) The key according to Claim 9, wherein the body comprises hot dip galvanized steel in a gauge from about 11 to about 20.

14. (Currently amended) A masonry coupling system, comprising:

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

at least one anchor mounted on a structure for coupling a masonry veneer to the structure, each anchor including a channel body having a bottom connected to two walls, a first wall of the two walls being projected substantially perpendicular to the bottom, and a second wall of the two walls in parallel to the first wall, the second wall having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being projected substantially perpendicular to the bottom and the distal end being projected toward the channel bottom at an acute angle of less than 90 degrees to define a negative slope; and

at least one key, each key interfacing with the masonry veneer and interlocking with at least one anchor mounted on the structure, each key including a substantially flat body with two ends, a first end of the substantially flat body having a slit to interlock with the anchor, and a second end of the substantially flat body having one or more openings for mortar capture wherein the slit is slanted towards the anchor at an acute angle of less than 90 degrees.

15. (Currently amended) The masonry coupling system according to Claim 14, wherein the distal end of the second wall of the channel and the slit of the key each comprise a corresponding angle, the corresponding angle ~~being selected from a group consisting of an angle~~ between about 40 to about 50 degrees ~~and an angle of about 45 degrees~~.

16. (Original) The masonry coupling system according to Claim 14, wherein the anchor is at least about 1 inch in length.

17. (Original) The masonry coupling system according to Claim 14, wherein the anchor body comprises steel in a gauge from about 11 to about 20.

18. (Original) The masonry coupling system according to Claim 17, wherein the anchor body comprises hot dip galvanized steel.

19. (Currently amended) The masonry coupling system according to Claim 14, further comprising a coating of adhesive material comprising a weatherproof protective membrane on the outer surface of the channel.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

20. (Original) The masonry anchoring system according to Claim 14, wherein the anchoring system comprises at least two anchors, and wherein each anchor is mounted to a structure in an alternate orientation with respect to the adjacent anchor.

21. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a masonry coupling system, the method comprising:

shaping a first form to create an anchor, the anchor including a channel body having a length of at least 1 foot in length comprising a channel bottom connected to two walls, a first wall of the two walls being projected substantially perpendicular to the channel bottom, and a second wall of the two walls in parallel to the first wall, the second wall having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being projected substantially perpendicular to the channel bottom, and the distal end being projected toward the channel bottom at an acute angle of less than 90 degrees to define a negative slope; and

dipping the anchor into a molten substance to form an alloy coating to provide cathodic protection.

22. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein the act of dipping includes dipping the anchor into a molten substance, the molten substance being selected from ~~Group 2B elements~~ the group consisting of zinc and cadmium.

23. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 21, further comprising applying an adhesive layer comprising a weatherproof protective membrane over the length of the channel bottom of the channel body~~, the act of applying including affixing a peelable strip of backing material over the adhesive layer.~~

24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 21, further comprising shaping a second form to create a key having a substantially flat body with two ends, a first end of the substantially flat body having a slit to interlock with the anchor, and a second end of the

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

substantially flat body having one or more openings for mortar capture wherein the slit is slanted towards the anchor at an acute angle less than 90 degrees.

25. (Original) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said flat steel form is at least 20 gauge steel.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, further comprising dipping the key into the molten substance to form an oxide layer.

27. (New) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the second wall is projected substantially perpendicular to the channel bottom at a height approximately twice the height of the first wall.

28. (New) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the distal end of the second wall is projected toward the channel bottom at an acute angle from about 40 degrees to about 50 degrees.

29. (New) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the distal end of the second wall is projected toward the channel bottom at an acute angle of about 40 degrees to about 50 degrees.

30. (New) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the distal end of the second wall is projected toward the channel bottom at an acute angle of about 45 degrees.

31. (New) The anchor according to Claim 1, wherein the anchor is at least about 1 foot in length.

32. (New) The key according to Claim 9, wherein the slit is slanted toward the anchor at an angle of about 45 degrees.

33. (New) The masonry coupling system according to Claim 15, wherein the corresponding angle is about 45 degrees.

34. (New) The masonry coupling system according to Claim 14, wherein the anchor body is at least about 1 foot in length.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100